

Message Text

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47

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 USIE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-03 /036 W

----- 102442

O R 271430Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6317

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1261

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, PFOR, LT

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GC - DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA

REF: A. STATE 257992, B. MASERU 12544, C. STATE 224244

1. AS INDICATED REF B, REF A RECEIVED BY POUCH (DUE LINE OUTAGE)

ONLY ON OCTOBER 26, POUCH HAVING BEEN MISROUTED BY SAA.

2. ON OCTOBER 27 CHARGE DISCUSSED DRAFT DECLARATION WITH PERMSEC FONAFF MASHOLOGU EMPHASIZING US DESIRE TO POSTPONE VOTE WHILE ALLOWING FULL DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT AT 19TH GC TO PRODUCE A TEXT WHICH WILL ENJOY WIDE SUPPORT AS CONTRASTED TO LIMITED SUPPORT FOR PRESENT DRAFT. CHARGE ALSO DREW ON REF C TO OUTLINE FOR MASHOLOGU DIFFICULTIES WHICH MAKE PRESENT DRAFT DECLARATION UNACCEPTABLE TO US (INIMICAL TO US CONSTITUTION, ZIONISM/ RACISM, ETC.). CHARGE EMPHASIZED ALTERNATIVE APPROACH OF STRENGTHENING LDC COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN LIEU OF DRAFT'S UNACCEPTABLE RESTRICTIONS ON FREE FLOW.

3. MOSHOLOGU SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND SYMPATHIZED WITH THE US POSITION IN PRINCIPLE BUT HE SAID THAT FOR LESOTHO THE IDEA OF STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN MASS MEDIA IS UNREAL. (LESOTHO HAS NO RPT NO ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS AND ONLY SMALL LESOTHO WEEKLIES. NEWSSTANDS ARE SWAMPED WITH SA PUBLICATIONS AND SA RADIO COMPETES HEAVILY WITH RADIO LESOTHO FOR LOCAL LISTENERS.

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FRINGE TELEVISION RECEPTION IS FROM SA. NO LESOTHO TV.)

MASHOLOGU SAID, GIVEN LESOTHO'S PRIORITIES, IT IS EASIER TO CONCEIVE OF STATE CONTROLS THAN TO ENVISION A BUILD-UP OF LOCAL MEDIA CAPABILITY TO MEANINGFUL COMPETITIVE BASE.

4. WHILE MASHOLOGU, OF COURSE, DOES NOT FORMULATE GOL POLICY, HIS VIEWS ARE LIKELY TO BE ENDORSED BY MANY IN GOL WHO LIVE WITH TORRENT OF SA MEDIA INFO AND INEFFECTIVE LITTLE VOICE OF RADIO LESOTHO.
STOKES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, INFORMATION MEDIA, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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